

South Mountain Airs

The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

January - March 2015, Volume XXXVIX #1 – The E-mail Edition

In Memoriam: Laura Hershey - A Good-bye to a Long-standing Audubon Member

Laura Hershey passed away on Nov. 21, 2014. She and her husband Baird were early members of the South Mountain Audubon Society. Laura and Baird opened their home every February to our members for the annual Owl Prowl. Many of us have great memories of seeing a Great Horned Owl on the nest as well as spotting Barred Owls in the pines.

A few years after Baird passed away, Laura decided it was too much work to have a lot of people come into her home but she continued to host our annual August picnic even when she was too ill to join us. Before Ralph and I became involved with SMAS (21 years ago), I know the Hershey's and many other members enjoyed going on overnight field trips to NJ, DE, MD and VA. Laura and Baird were great naturalists and shared their knowledge with their family and friends. They are and will continue to be missed.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS SUMMARY

The **SMAS Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** encompassing Gettysburg and surrounding areas was held on Saturday December 20th, 2014. About thirty individuals participated in the field and / or on their property and at their bird feeders.

81 different species of birds were seen totaling 9275 individual birds. A summary sheet of the count is attached to this email, listing each species with the number seen on the count. (If you are receiving hard copy via the US Postal Service mail, the summary is the last page of this newsletter.)

UPCOMING SMAS PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

Unless indicated otherwise, all SMAS Program Presentations are held at the Adams County Agricultural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA at 7:30 PM. A room number for the SMAS meeting will be posted on the front lobby entry inner door.

We've posted the information on our total activities' schedule at the end of this edition.

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Please note that January begins a new calendar year for SMAS and at the January regular public meeting, we vote on, and elect, new and returning Board members and Directors At Large for those positions which are at term and need to be filled.

All SMAS members are welcome to run for the positions needing filling. For those not currently a member, but interested in volunteering, it only takes a minute or two to become a club member.

Monday January 12th - **The Beauty of the Neotropics Through Nature Photography**

The Beauty of the Neotropics: Enjoy the warmth and the color of the Neotropics with photographs taken in the Dominican Republic, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela. Linette Mansberger will present her pictures of many species of birds - including brilliantly feathered hummingbirds, quetzals, and tanagers – along with some reptiles, mammals, amphibians, and insects, as she shares her love of nature and the beauty of these countries.

Linette is a current and active South Mountain Audubon Society member and has served in various positions on the SMAS Board. She is currently serving as the SMAS Secretary.

Monday March 9th - To Be Announced

UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS

Contact Mike O'Brien, Field Trip Chair, as necessary for more information on all Field Trips, the annual Christmas Bird Count and the Spring Migration Count: 717.642.6676 Res / maddogobrien@gmail.com E-mail.

Please let the Leader know in advance if you plan to attend any field trip, especially if you plan to go direct.

Trips are subject to weathering out, especially in the colder months, or otherwise being changed. In addition, if we have only one or two known attendees, we may cancel or reschedule a given field trip. We cannot alert you unless we hear from you.

Thursday January 29th - “Antietam National Battlefield”

We will visit the Antietam National Battlefield at Sharpsburg, MD. We hope to see resident birds as well as overwintering migrant species. Bring binoculars, appropriate clothing per the weather (multiple layers are suggested) and snacks / drinks as per personal needs. Facilities available. Call the leader at 717.642.6676 as needed / for additional info. Meet at leader's house, Mike O'Brien, #231 Carroll's Tract Rd, Fairfield, PA at 8 AM with return by 2 to 3 PM. Directions follow:

The field trip will leave from the trip leaders home at #231 Carroll's Tract Road, a Tee intersection with PA Rte #116, at the Fairfield Post Office. #231 is about a half mile down Carroll's Tract Road on the right, the second driveway on the right after crossing the intersection with Bullfrog Road and Mt. Hope Road; the house sets back several hundred feet from the driveway entrance. There is no mailbox. A standard green fire sign with 231 on it is attached to the lower trunk of a small tree where you turn in. Immediately beyond the driveway is a mail box displaying Sugarloaf Lane for the next house, which also sets well back.

Wednesday March 11th - “Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area”

The Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, located on the Lebanon-Lancaster County line about one mile south of Kleinfeltersville, is a tract owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the protection, propagation, management, preservation and controlled harvest of wildlife. Per the PA Game Commission, this area of more than 5,000 acres provides habitat for waterfowl, forest and farmland wildlife species, and includes a 40 acre shallow lake and 70 acres of impoundments. The area is a stopover for massive numbers of migrating Snow Geese and Tundra Swans as well as numerous other waterfowl, land birds and eagles as well as containing many resident species.

Bring binoculars, appropriate clothing per the weather including windy conditions (multiple layers are suggested), and snacks / drinks as per personal needs. Scopes are desirable if available. Mixed birding from vehicles on wildlife drive loop roads and some walking to include, if desired, about a quarter mile to viewing point on the lake area (and return). Facilities available. Meet at the parking lot area between CVS and Burger King (across road opposite Walmart) on US #30 near its intersection with US #15 at 8 AM (this is on the West side of the US #30 and #15 interchange). Contact the leader, Mike O'Brien at 717.642.6676, as needed / for additional info.

HEY!! Checkout our South Mountain Audubon Society Website!!!

SMAS has a Website. The home page has some general information and synopses of Chapter activities as well as a number of links to other informational aspects. These include the Calendar, Board members and officers, Chapter meeting minutes, current and archival newsletter editions, and links to a number of other Adams County organizations as well as other county, state and national groups and organizations. There are also some chapter location specific area checklists. More of these and other items are being added on a regular basis. All are encouraged to offer suggestions on what you would like to see on the website. Contact info is on the site.

Accessing the SMAS Newsletter

A great feature of having the Newsletter on-line and receiving it via e-mail, is that you can always access a misplaced or discarded issue at a future date. You can access the Newsletter in several ways.

First, if you do not routinely discard your emails or you retain selected items in your in-box or transfer them to a saved information folder or similar, you can always access them at a future date on your own system.

Second, we archive the electronic edition on the internet at the following url: perch.es

Simply copy the url and paste it into your browser search box or just type it in (Clicking often will not work).

The first header that appears is for the current (most recent) issue. In addition, there is a heading, by year, for past quarterly issues which we archive on the site. We have put the past issues here since we started the electronic edition.

And, of course, per information above re the new SMAS Website, you can reference current & past issues there.

OTHER SMAS RELATED INFORMATION

| <u>Board Members</u> | Point of Contact | Telephone | Email address |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--|
| President | Deb Siefken | 677-4830 | siefkend@embarqmail.com |
| Vice-President | Carole Simon | 337-1662 | carolesimon@embarqmail.com |
| Secretary | Linette Mansberger | 495-8137 | Lmcopperhead@aol.com |
| Treasurer | Mike Bertram | 352-7936 | the2nomads@centurylink.net |
| <u>Committee Chairs</u> | | | |
| Conservation | Emily Cost | 642-5840 | emilycost@yahoo.com |
| Education | Emily Cost | 642-5840 | emilycost@yahoo.com |
| Field Trips | Mike O'Brien | 642-6676 | maddogobrien@gmail.com |
| Hospitality | Vacant | | |
| Membership | Mike O'Brien | 642-6676 | maddogobrien@gmail.com |
| Programs | Bob Brandt | 677-8323 | brantownb@aol.com |
| Publicity | Elizabeth Weller | 339-8443 | amazingheartfarm@comcast.net |
| Newsletter | Mike O'Brien | 642-6676 | maddogobrien@gmail.com |
| Director At Large | Nancy Locher | 334-4768 | nclocher@embarqmail.com |
| Director At Large | Rusty Ryan | 642-9293 | rryan@adamscounty.us |
| Director At Large | Cy Deitz | 253-0297 | sdeitz1630@comcast.net |

Above is through year-end. SMAS nominations & election occur at the January regular public meeting.

SMAS Annual Schedule Information

Regular SMAS Monthly Program Meetings are held Jan / Mar / May / June / Sept / Oct / Nov.

Unless indicated otherwise, are all meetings are held on Mondays at 7:30 PM at the Adams County Agricultural Center. Please see complete information at the beginning of this and every Newsletter in case there is any variation by quarter. Please check individual programs in each issue in case of a change in times and / or venue.

Field Trips are normally held monthly in Jan / Feb / Mar / April / May / Jun / Sept / Oct / Nov. In December we substitute the annual Christmas Bird Count for the monthly field trip. Some of these monthly field trips traditionally repeat each year, such as the Christmas Bird Count and the Migration Count in May. We usually go to a nearby hawk watch site in late September or early October.

The Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is held by design between 14 December and 5 January. For SMAS, this is in lieu of a regular field trip. We schedule our SMAS CBC on the first available Saturday after 13 December. In the event of really bad weather, we may cancel and reschedule.

The Annual Luncheon has been traditionally held in April ,at the Hickory Bridge Restaurant in Fairfield, in lieu of, the regular monthly meeting. We usually have a presentation or other feature at the annual luncheon.

Our SMAS Annual Picnic and get together is held in August on the second Monday. This is “Bring A Dish” to share and the kickoff is 5 PM with dinner at 6 PM. In addition to bringing a dish to share, attendees should bring their own place setting materials. Drinks and some type of main dish(es) will be provided. See the summer Newsletter edition for details on location, times and directions.

All meetings, field trips and other activities are subject to weathering out or other cancellation reasons. If you are on our email list (receiving our Newsletters and other information) you will get an email notification as soon as the decision is made. Otherwise, if there is some question based on the weather or some other issue, please contact the field trip leader or someone from the list of Board Members / Committee Chairpersons applicable to your question(s).